

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A communication device for communicating in video and audio with another other terminal device, comprising:

mode selecting means for automatically selecting between a first operation mode and a second operation mode;

mode setting means for setting a first operation mode for unassisted operation or a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

an external connection interface for connecting with said external data processor;

operation means;

communication means for exchanging information with said other terminal device;

video input means;

video output means;

audio input/output means; and

control means that operates in accordance with an operation through said operation means and outputs video data to be displayed to said video output means in said first operation modes, and operates in accordance with control commands received from said external data processor through said external connection interface and transfers video data to be displayed to said external data processor in said second operation mode~~[,]~~; and

inhibition means for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device;

wherein said second operation mode, the control commands are generated by an application program running in said external data processor and transition to said first operation mode is made automatically when said application program is terminated during the operation of said external data processor in said second operation mode.

Claim 2 (Original): A device according to claim 1, wherein said mode setting means automatically sets said first operation mode after power is supplied and sets said second operation mode in accordance with a control instruction from said external data processor.

Claim 3 (Original): A device according to claim 1, wherein said mode setting means sets said first operation mode in response to the connection state with said external data processor changing to a substantially disconnected state.

Claim 4 (Original): A device according to claim 1, wherein said control means operates also in accordance with a control signal from said external data processor in said first operation mode.

Claim 5 (Original): A device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a recording medium; and
recording management means for recording data to be recorded in said external data processor when said recording medium has its space area less than a predetermined amount, and recording, on said recording medium, management information indicating that said data is recorded in said external data processor.

Claim 6 (Original): A device according to claim 5, wherein said recording management means checks on the basis of said management information as to whether or not data to be reproduced exists in said recording medium, and reproduces said data when it exists in said recording medium and requests said external data processor to transfer said data when it exists in said external data processor.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A control method of a communication device for communicating in video and audio with ~~another~~ other terminal device, said communication device having a first operation mode in which said communication device operates on the basis of an operation through its own operation means and a second operation mode in which said communication device operates under the control of an external data processor, said method comprising:

mode selecting means for automatically selecting between a first operation mode and a second operation mode;

an operation mode setting step;

a first operation step for operating said communication device in accordance with an operation through said operation means when said first operation mode is set in said operation mode setting step;

a display output step for outputting video data to be displayed to a video output device provided in said communication device;

a second operation step for operating said communication device in accordance with control commands from said external data processor when said second operation mode is set in said operation mode setting step; and

a transfer step for transferring video data to be displayed to said external data processor[,]; and

inhibition means for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in said second operation mode, the control commands are generated by an application program running in said external data processor and transition to said first operation mode is made automatically when said application program is terminated during the operation of said external data processor in said second operation mode.

Claim 8 (Original): A device according to claim 7, wherein said first operation mode is automatically set after power is supplied and said second operation mode is set in accordance with a control instruction from said external data processor in said operation mode setting step.

Claim 9 (Original): A device according to claim 7, wherein said first operation mode is set in response to the connection state with said external data processor changing to a substantially disconnected state in said operation mode setting step.

Claim 10 (Original): A device according to claim 7, wherein said communication device operates also in accordance with a control signal from said external data processor in said first operation mode.

Claim 11 (Original): A method according to claim 7, further comprising a recording management step for recording data to be recorded in said external data processor when a recording medium has its space area less than a predetermined amount, and recording, on said recording medium, management information indicating that said data is recorded in said external data processor.

Claim 12 (Original): A device according to claim 7, further comprising a reproducing step for checking on the basis of said management information as to whether or not data to be reproduced exists in said recording medium, and reproducing said data when it exists in said recording medium and requesting said external data processor to transfer said data when it exists in said external data processor.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A communication device for communicating in video and audio with another other terminal device, comprising:

mode selecting means for automatically selecting between a first operation mode and a second operation mode;

mode setting means for setting up a first operation mode for unassisted operation or a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

external connection interface means for connecting with said external data processor;

operation means;

communication means for exchanging information with said other terminal device;

video input means;

video output means;

audio input/output means; and

control means provided with a processor for controlling each of said means; and

inhibition means for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein, in said first mode, said control means makes a control such that a control menu and video data to be displayed are output to said video output means and said control means executes a predetermined operation in accordance with pieces of operation information from said operation means and pieces of operation information from said external data processor and, in said second mode, said control means transfers video data to be displayed to said external data processor through said external connection interface means to display said video data on a display device provided for said external data processor and receives control information based on an operation to operation means provided for said external data processor through said external connection interface means and controls it to operate in accordance with said control means, and

wherein in said second operation mode, the control information is generated by an application program running in said external data processor and transition to said first operation mode is made automatically when the application program is terminated during the operation of said external data processor in said second operation mode.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A communication device for communicating an image with another other terminal device, comprising:

mode selecting means for selecting between a first operation mode for unassisted operation and a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

mode setting means for setting the first operation mode or the second operation mode;

a connection interface for connecting with the external data processor;

operation means;

communication means for communicating with the external data processor connected via said connection interface;

image output means; and

control means for controlling said mode selecting means so as to select the first operation mode according to release or the connection, while said communication device is in an operable state under the control of the external data processor in the second operation mode[[],]; and

inhibition means for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in the second operation mode, the control or the external data processor is effected by a control command generated by an application program running in said external data processor and transition to said first operation mode is made automatically when said application program is terminated during the operation of said external data processor in the second operation mode.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A communication device for communicating an image with another other terminal device, comprising:

mode selecting means for selecting between a first operation mode for unassisted operation and a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

mode setting means for setting the first operation mode or the second operation mode;

a connection interface for connecting with the external data processor;

operation means;

communication means for communicating with the external data processor connected via said connection interface;

image output means; and

control means for operating according to handling to said operation means, and for controlling said mode selecting means so as to automatically select the second operation mode according to reception of a control command from the external data processor connected via said connection interface, while said communication device is in a state capable of outputting an image in the first operation mode[[],]; and

inhibition means for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in the second operation mode, the control command is generated by an application program running in the external data processor and transition to the first operation

mode is made automatically when the application program is terminated during the operation of the external data processor in the second operation mode.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A control method of a communication device for communicating an image with ~~another~~ other terminal device, comprising:

mode selecting step for selecting between a first operation mode for unassisted operation and a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

mode setting step for setting the first operation mode or the second operation mode;

connecting step for connecting a connection interface with the external data processor;

operation step;

communicating step for communicating with the external data processor connected via said connection interface;

outputting step for outputting image; ~~and~~

controlling step for controlling said mode selecting means so as to select the first operation mode according to release or the connection, while said communication device is in an operable state under the control of the external data processor in the second operation mode[[],];
and

inhibiting step for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in the second operation mode, the control of the external data processor is effected by a control command generated by an application program running in the external data processor and transition to said first operation mode is made automatically when the application

program is terminated during the operation of the external data processor in the second operation mode.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A control method of a communication device for communicating an image with another other terminal device, comprising:

mode selecting step for selecting between a first operation mode for unassisted operation and a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

mode setting step for setting the first operation mode or the second operation mode;

connecting step for connecting a connection interface with the external data processor;

operation step;

communication step for communicating with the external data processor connected via said connection interface;

output step for outputting image; and

controlling step for operating according to handling to said operation means, and for controlling said mode selecting means so as to automatically select the second operation mode according to reception of a control command from the external data processor connected via said connection interface, while said communication device is in a state capable of outputting an image in the first operation mode[[],]; and

inhibiting step for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in the second operation mode, the control command is generated by an application program running in said external data processor and transition to the first operation

mode is made automatically when the application program is terminated during the operation of the external data processor in the second operation mode.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A computer program product for communicating an image with another other terminal device with a computer readable medium, comprising:

program code for selecting between a first operation mode for unassisted operation and a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

program code for setting the first operation mode or the second operation mode;

program code for connecting a connection interface with the external data processor;

operation step;

program code for communicating with the external data processor connected via said connection interface;

program code for outputting image; and

program code for controlling said mode selecting means so as to select the first operation mode according to release or the connection, while said communication device is in an operable state under the control of the external data processor in the second operation mode_[,]; and

program code for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in the second operation mode, the control of the external data processor is effected by a control command generated by an application program running in the external data processor and transition to the first operation mode is made automatically when the application

program is terminated during the operation of the external data processor in the second operation mode.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A computer program product for communicating an image with another other terminal device with a computer readable medium, comprising:

program code for selecting between a first operation mode for unassisted operation and a second operation mode for operation under the control of an external data processor;

program code for setting the first operation mode or the second operation mode;

connecting step for connecting a connection interface with the external data processor;

operation step;

program code for communicating with the external data processor connected via said connection interface;

program code for outputting image; and

program code for operating according to handling to said operation means, and for controlling said mode selecting means so as to automatically select the second operation mode according to reception of a control command from the external data processor connected via said connection interface, while said communication device is in a state capable of outputting an image in the first operation mode[,,]; and

program code for inhibiting change from said first operation mode to said second operation mode or change from said second operation mode to said first operation mode, while communicating with said other terminal device,

wherein in the second operation mode, the control of the external data processor is effected by a control command generated by an application program running in the external data

processor and transition to the first operation mode is made automatically when the application program is terminated during the operation of the external data processor in the second operation mode.